Clean Version of the Claims

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the amended claims below for the pending claims with the same claim numbers. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

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1. (Amended) A method for providing a personal audio alert message (PAAM) to a called party and a calling party during a call connection, the method comprising:

querying a PAAM database in response to a call origination by the calling party, wherein the database stores a plurality of predefined PAAM strings;

receiving one or more PAAM strings from the database in response to the query;

returning a first PAAM string, from the one or more PAAM strings, identifying the called party to the calling party;

routing the call to the called party;

returning a second PAAM string and a third PAAM string, from the one or more PAAM strings from the database, to the called party in the routed call, wherein the second PAAM string is a salutation to the called party and a third PAAM string identifies the calling party to the called party; and

connecting the call if the called party accepts the call.

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3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting the first PAAM string to the calling party while the call is being routed to the called party.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting the second PAAM string and the third PAAM string to the called party before the called party answers the call.

18. (Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of executable instructions, the plurality of instructions comprising instructions to:

query a personal audio alert message (PAAM) database in response to a call by the calling party, wherein the PAAM database stores a plurality of predefined PAAM strings;

receive one or more PAAM strings from the database in response to the query;

return a first PAAM string, from the one or more PAAM strings, identifying a called party to the calling party;

route the call to the called party;

return a second PAAM string and a third PAAM string, from the one or more PAAM strings, to the called party in the routed call, wherein the second PAAM string is a salutation to the called party and a third PAAM string identifies the calling party to the called party; and

connect the call if the called party answers the call.

32. (Amended) An apparatus for providing a personal audio alert service to a called party and a calling party during a call connection, the apparatus comprising:

a memory to store called party information, calling party information and associated personal audio alert message (PAAM) information;

a PAAM interface to search the memory for a called party number and to retrieve a personalized first PAAM string from the associated PAAM information if the called party number is found in the memory;

a PAAM module to receive the personalized first PAAM string and to generate a first personalized message including the personalized first PAAM string when a call is originated, the first personalized message including an identifier for the called party; and

an output device to output the generated first personalized message to the calling party while the call is connected and to further output a generic message to the calling party including a generic PAAM string including an identifier relating to the identity of the called party if the called party number is not found in the memory.